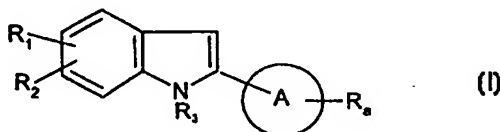




## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification <sup>6</sup> : <b>C07D 401/12, A61K 31/40, C07D 209/18</b>		<b>A1</b>	(11) International Publication Number: <b>WO 99/33822</b>
			(43) International Publication Date: 8 July 1999 (08.07.99)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/EP98/08561 (22) International Filing Date: 17 December 1998 (17.12.98) (30) Priority Data: 97403154.4                      24 December 1997 (24.12.97)      EP (71) Applicants (for all designated States except US): SMITHKLINE BEECHAM LABORATOIRES PHARMACEUTIQUES [FR/FR]; 6, Esplanade Charles de Gaulle, F-92731 Nanterre Cedex (FR). SMITHKLINE BEECHAM S.P.A. [IT/IT]; Via Zambelletti, I-20021 Baranzate di Bollate (IT). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): GAGLIARDI, Stefania [IT/IT]; SmithKline Beecham S.p.A., Via Zambelletti, I-20021 Baranzate di Bollate (IT). NADLER, Guy, Marguerite, Marie, Gérard [FR/FR]; SmithKline Beecham Laboratoires Pharmaceutiques, 6, Esplanade Charles de Gaulle, F-92731 Nanterre Cedex (FR). NOVELLA, Pietro [IT/IT]; SmithKline Beecham S.p.A., Via Zambelletti, I-20021 Baranzate di Bollate (IT). (74) Agent: RUTTER, Keith; SmithKline Beecham, Corporate Intellectual Property, Two New Horizons Court, Brentford, Middlesex TW8 9EP (GB).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).  <b>Published</b> <i>With international search report.          Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>	

(54) Title: INDOLE DERIVATIVES USEFUL A.O. FOR THE TREATMENT OF OSTEOPOROSIS



## (57) Abstract

A compound of formula (I) or a salt thereof, or a solvate thereof, wherein: A represents an optionally substituted aryl group or an optionally substituted heterocyclyl group; R<sub>a</sub> represents -CO-NR<sub>s</sub>R<sub>t</sub> wherein R<sub>s</sub> and R<sub>t</sub> each independently represents hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted arylalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl or an optionally substituted heterocyclylalkyl group, or R<sub>s</sub> and R<sub>t</sub> together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a heterocyclyl group; R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> each independently represents hydrogen, hydroxy, amino, alkoxy, optionally substituted aryloxy, optionally substituted benzyloxy, alkylamino, dialkylamino, halo, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, nitro, alkyl, carboxy, carbalkoxy, carbamoyl, alkylcarbamoyl, or R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> together represent methylenedioxy, carbonyldioxy or carbonyldiamino; and R<sub>3</sub> represents hydrogen, alkanoyl, alkyl, aminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, carboxyalkyl, carbalkoxyalkyl, carbamoyl or alkylsulphonyl and arylsulphonyl; a process for the preparation of such a compound, a pharmaceutical composition containing such a compound and the use of such a compound or composition in medicine.

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## INDOLE DERIVATIVES USEFUL A.O. FOR THE TREATMENT OF OSTEOPOROSIS

This invention relates to certain novel compounds, to a process for preparing such compounds, to pharmaceutical compositions containing such compounds and to the use of such compounds and compositions in medicine.

Diseases associated with loss of bone mass are known to be caused by over activity of osteoclast cells. It is also known that certain compounds, usually related to bafilomycin, are useful for treating such diseases: For example International Patent Application, publication number WO 91/06296 discloses certain bafilomycin macrolides for the treatment of bone affecting diseases.

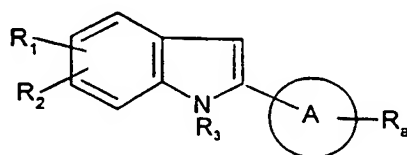
However, bafilomycin derivatives are not selective for osteoclasts in humans. The use of these compounds is therefore associated with unacceptable toxicity due to generalised blockade of other essential v-ATPases. Indeed, to date there is no known treatment which is selective for the human osteoclasts.

The search for a successful treatment for diseases associated with loss of bone mass in humans is further complicated in that the nature of the therapeutic target for the selective inhibition of the osteoclasts is controversial. Thus Baron *et al.* (International Patent Application publication number WO93/01280) indicate that a specific vacuolar ATPase (V-ATPase) has been identified in osteoclasts as a potential therapeutic target. However, the Baron work was carried out in chickens and Hall *et al.* (*Bone and Mineral* **27**, 159-166, (1994)), in a study relating to mammals, conclude that in contrast to avian osteoclast V-ATPase, mammalian osteoclast V-ATPase is pharmacologically similar to the v-ATPase in other cells and, therefore, it is unlikely to be a good therapeutic target.

We have now found a group of compounds which are selective for mammalian osteoclasts, acting to selectively inhibit their bone resorbing activity. These compounds are therefore considered to be particularly useful for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of diseases associated with loss of bone mass, such as osteoporosis and related osteopenic diseases, Paget's disease, hyperparathyroidism and related diseases. These compounds are also considered to possess anti-tumour activity, antiviral activity (for example against *Semliki Forest*, *Vesicular Stomatitis*, *Newcastle Disease*, *Influenza A* and *B*, *HIV* viruses), antiulcer activity (for example the compounds may be useful for the treatment of chronic gastritis and peptic ulcer induced by

*Helicobacter pylori*), immunosuppressant activity, antilipidemic activity, antiatherosclerotic activity and to be useful for the treatment of AIDS and Alzheimer's disease. In a further aspect, these compounds are also considered useful in inhibiting angiogenesis, i.e. the formation of new blood vessels which is observed in various types of pathological conditions (*angiogenic diseases*) such as rheumatoid arthritis, diabetic retinopathy, psoriasis and solid tumours.

Accordingly, the invention provides a compound of formula (I):



(I)

or a salt thereof, or a solvate thereof, wherein:

- 10 A represents an optionally substituted aryl group or an optionally substituted heterocyclyl group;  
 Ra represents -CO- NR<sub>S</sub>R<sub>t</sub> wherein R<sub>S</sub> and R<sub>t</sub> each independently represent hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted arylalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl or an optionally substituted heterocyclylalkyl group, or R<sub>S</sub> and R<sub>t</sub> together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form  
 15 a heterocyclyl group;  
 R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> each independently represents hydrogen, hydroxy, amino, alkoxy, optionally substituted aryloxy, optionally substituted benzyloxy, alkylamino, dialkylamino, halo, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, nitro, alkyl, carboxy, carbalkoxy, carbamoyl, alkylcarbamoyl, or R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> together represent methylenedioxy, carbonyldioxy or carbonyldiamino; and  
 20 R<sub>3</sub> represents hydrogen, alkanoyl, alkyl, aminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, carboxyalkyl, carbalkoxyalkyl, carbamoyl or alkylsulphonyl and arylsulphonyl.

Examples of aryl groups represented by A include phenyl and naphthyl.

Examples of heterocyclyl groups represented by A include furyl groups.

Suitably, R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> each independently represents a halogen substituent, for example  
 25 chloro.

Suitable positions for substitution for R<sub>1</sub> or R<sub>2</sub> are the 4, 5, 6 or 7 position, favourably the 5 or 6 position.

In a preferred aspect R<sub>1</sub> is chloro, especially 5-chloro, and R<sub>2</sub> is chloro, especially 6-chloro.

Suitably,  $R_3$  represents hydrogen.

When  $R_S$  or  $R_t$  represent alkyl or substituted alkyl, suitable alkyl groups are  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl groups, for example  $C_1$ ,  $C_2$ ,  $C_3$ ,  $C_4$  and  $C_5$  alkyl groups, favourably ethyl, propyl or butyl.

When  $R_S$  or  $R_t$  represent substituted alkyl, favoured groups are 2-(dialkylamino)ethyl, 3-(dialkylamino)propyl, 4-(dialkylamino)butyl, 3-[4-(3-chlorophenyl)piperazin-1-yl]propyl, 3-[4-(3-hydroxyphenyl)piperazin-1-yl]propyl, heterocyclymethyl, heterocycylethyl or heterocyclylpropyl groups.

Suitably,  $R_S$  represents optionally substituted heterocyclyl, and aryl.

Suitably,  $R_S$  represents optionally substituted heterocyclylalkyl.

10 Suitably,  $R_t$  is hydrogen.

In a favoured aspect,  $R_S$  represents an optionally substituted piperidinyl group, especially a 4-piperidinyl group.

Substituents for the piperidinyl ring include alkyl, fused cycloalkyl and hydroxyalkyl, polyhydroxyalkyl.

15 Favoured substituents for piperidinyl groups are alkyl groups.

When the piperidinyl group is substituted it is preferred if the substituents are attached to one or both of the carbon atoms alpha to the nitrogen atom.

An example of a substituted piperidinyl groups is a 1,2,2,6,6- pentamethylpiperidin-4-yl group and 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidin-4-yl.

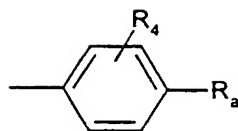
20 When  $R_S$  represents heterocyclylalkyl, suitable heterocyclyl groups are optionally substituted saturated single ring heterocyclic group having 5 to 8, preferably 5 or 6, ring atoms, which atoms include 1, 2 or 3 heteroatoms selected from O, S, or N; for example an optionally substituted piperazinyl group; Suitable optional substituents for the heterocyclyl groups are optionally substituted aryl groups, for example hydroxyphenyl or chlorophenyl groups.

25 There is a moiety, referred to herein as moiety (b), which forms part of formula (I) and which has the formula shown below :



(b)

In one preferred aspect moiety (b) represents a moiety of formula (c):



(c)

wherein  $R_a$  is as defined relation to formula (I) and  $R_4$  represents hydrogen, hydroxy, alkoxy, alkythio, halogen or a group  $NR_uR_v$  wherein  $R_u$  and  $R_v$  each independently represent

5 hydrogen, alkyl or alkylcarbonyl.

Suitably  $R_4$  is located meta to  $R_a$ .

Suitably,  $R_4$  represents hydrogen or alkoxy, preferably alkoxy.

An example of  $R_4$  is hydrogen. An example of  $R_4$  is methoxy.

Particular examples of formula (I) are those of example numbers 2, 7 and 8.

10 As used herein, the term "alkyl" includes straight or branched chain alkyl groups having from 1 to 12, suitably 1 to 6, preferably 1 to 4, carbon atoms, such as methyl, ethyl, n- and iso-propyl and n- iso-, tert-butyl and pentyl groups, and also includes such alkyl groups when forming part of other groups such as alkoxy or alkanoyl groups.

As used herein, the term "aryl" includes phenyl and naphthyl, especially phenyl.

15 Suitable optional substituents for any aryl group include up to 5 substituents, suitably up to 3 substituents, selected from alkyl, alkoxy, thioalkyl, hydroxy, halogen, trifluoromethyl, alkylcarbonyl, cyano, nitro, or a group- $NR_uR_v$  wherein  $R_u$  and  $R_v$  each independently represent hydrogen, alkyl or alkylcarbonyl.

Suitable arylalkyl groups include aryl- $C_{1-3}$ -alkyl groups such as phenylethyl and benzyl  
20 groups, especially benzyl.

Preferably, substituted aralkyl groups are substituted in the aryl moiety.

As used herein, the term "heterocyclyl" includes saturated or unsaturated single or fused ring heterocyclic groups, each ring having 4 to 11 ring atoms, especially 5 to 8, preferably 5, 6 or 7 which ring atoms include 1, 2 or 3 heteroatoms selected from O, S, or N.

25 Suitable optional substituents for any heterocyclyl group includes those mentioned herein with respect to the aryl group.

As used herein, the term "halogen" or "halo" includes fluoro, chloro, bromo and iodo, suitably fluoro and chloro, favourably chloro.

When used herein "acyl" includes alkyl carbonyl.

Certain of the carbon atoms of the compounds of formula (I) are chiral carbon atoms and may therefore provide stereoisomers of the compound of formula (I). The invention extends to all stereoisomeric forms of the compounds of formula (I) including enantiomers and mixtures thereof, including racemates. The different stereoisomeric forms may be separated or resolved one from the other by conventional methods or any given isomer may be obtained by conventional stereospecific or asymmetric syntheses.

Suitable salts are pharmaceutically acceptable salts.

Suitable pharmaceutically acceptable salts include acid addition salts and salts of carboxy groups.

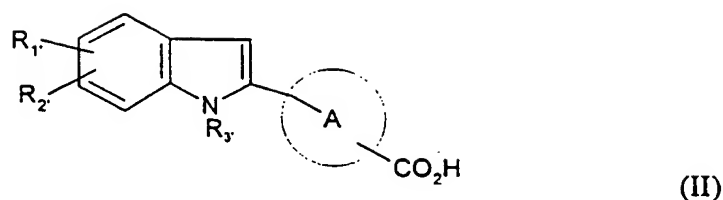
Suitable pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts include salts with inorganic acids such, for example, as hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, orthophosphoric acid or sulphuric acid, or with organic acids such, for example as methanesulphonic acid, toluenesulphonic acid, acetic acid, propionic acid, lactic acid, citric acid, fumaric acid, malic acid, succinic acid, salicylic acid, maleic acid, glycerophosphoric acid or acetylsalicylic acid.

Suitable pharmaceutically acceptable salts of carboxy groups include metal salts, such as for example aluminium, alkali metal salts such as sodium or potassium and lithium, alkaline earth metal salts such as calcium or magnesium and ammonium or substituted ammonium salts, for example those with C1-6 alkylamines such as triethylamine, hydroxy-C1-6 alkylamines such as 2-hydroxyethylamine, bis-(2-hydroxyethyl)-amine or tri-(2-hydroxyethyl)-amine, cycloalkylamines such as dicyclohexylamine, or with procaine, 1,4-dibenzylpiperidine, N-benzyl-b-phenethylamine, dehydroabietylamine, N,N'-bisdehydroabietylamine, glucamine, N-methylglucamine or bases of the pyridine type such as pyridine, collidine or quinoline.

Suitable solvates of the compounds of the formula (I) are pharmaceutically acceptable solvates, such as hydrates.

The salts and/or solvates of the compounds of the formula (I) which are not pharmaceutically acceptable may be useful as intermediates in the preparation of pharmaceutically acceptable salts and/or solvates of compounds of formula (I) or the compounds of the formula (I) themselves, and as such form another aspect of the present invention.

A compound of formula (I) or a salt thereof or a solvate thereof may be prepared by amidation of a compound of formula (II):



wherein A is as defined in relation to formula (I),  $R_1'$ ,  $R_2'$  and  $R_3'$  each respectively represent  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  as defined in relation to formula (I) or a protected form thereof; and thereafter, as

5 necessary, carrying out one or more of the following reactions:

- (i) converting one compound of formula (I) into another compound of formula (I);
- (ii) removing any protecting group;
- (iii) preparing a salt or a solvate of the compound so formed.

Suitable amidation methods include treating the compound of formula (II) with a

10 compound of formula (III):

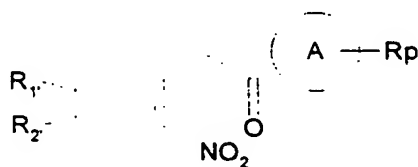


wherein  $R_s$  and  $R_t$  are as defined in relation to formula (I); and thereafter, as required, removing any protecting group from the compound so formed.

15 The reaction between the compounds of formula (II) and (III) may be carried out under the appropriate conventional amidation conditions, for example in an aprotic solvent such as dimethylformamide, at any temperature providing a suitable rate of formation of the required product, conveniently at ambient temperature; preferably the amidation reaction is carried out in the presence of a peptide coupling reagent such as 1-hydroxy-7-azabenzotriazole (HOAT),

20 and/or 1-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride (WSC).

A compound of formula (II) may be prepared by cyclising a compound of formula (IV):





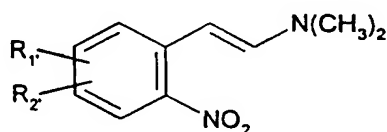
wherein A, R<sub>1</sub>' and R<sub>2</sub>' are as defined in relation to formula (II) and R<sub>p</sub> represents a protected carboxyl group or a group convertible into a carboxyl group; and thereafter, as required, converting the group R<sub>p</sub> into a carboxyl group.

Suitably, the cyclisation reaction is carried out under reductive cyclisation conditions, for example by using powdered iron/acetic acid mixtures or an alkali metal hydrogensulphite, such as sodium hydrogensulphite, in any suitable solvent such as tetrahydrofuran, ethanol, methanol or water or mixtures thereof at any temperature providing a suitable rate of formation of the required product, such as an elevated temperature, conveniently at the reflux temperature of the solvent.

When R<sub>p</sub> is a protecting group, suitable protecting groups include lower alkyl groups, for example methyl or ethyl groups, which may be removed by conventional hydrolysis methods, for example by use of basic hydrolysis using ethanolic potassium hydroxide.

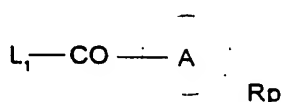
When R<sub>p</sub> is a group convertible into a carboxyl group, suitable groups include cyano groups: Such groups may be converted into carboxyl groups using conventional methods for example when R<sub>p</sub> is a cyano group it may be converted into a carboxyl group by hydrolysis using conventional methods, for example by use of basic hydrolysis using potassium hydroxide solution in ethanol at reflux. A preferred value of R<sub>p</sub> is a cyano group.

A compound of formula (IV) is prepared by reacting a compound of formula (V):



(V)

wherein R<sub>1</sub>' and R<sub>2</sub>' are as defined in relation to formula (II) with a compound of formula (VI):



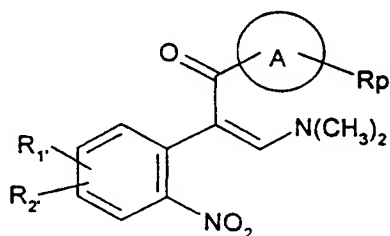
(VI)

wherein A and R<sub>p</sub> are as defined in relation to formula (IV) and L<sub>1</sub> represents a leaving group or atom, such as a halogen atom, for example a chlorine atom.

The reaction between the compounds of formula (V) and (VI) may be carried in an inert hydrocarbon solvent, such as cyclohexane, at any temperature providing a suitable rate of

formation of the required product, preferably at an elevated temperature, such as the reflux temperature of the solvent and in presence of a base, preferably a tertiary amine such as triethylamine.

The reaction between the compounds of formulae (V) and (VI) proceeds via an intermediate which is not usually isolated and which provides the required compound of formula (IV) on heating in situ. It an alternative aspect, the intermediate is isolated thereby providing an alternative preparation of the compound of formula (IV) wherein the compound of formula (VII):



(VII)

wherein A, R<sub>1</sub>' and R<sub>2</sub>' are as defined in relation to formula (II) and R<sub>p</sub> is as defined in relation to formula (IV), is heated to provide the herein before defined compound of formula (IV).

The conversion of compound (VII) into the compound of formula (IV) is conveniently carried out in a polar solvent mixture, such as dioxane and water, usually at the reflux temperature of the solvent mixture in conditions analogous to those described in *J. Het. Chem.* **11**, 219-221, (1974).

The compounds of formula (V) are known compounds or they are prepared using methods analogous to those used to prepare known compounds, such as those disclosed by Meervein *et al Ann. Chem.* 641, 1 (1961) and *Org. Synth. Collective VII*, 34-41.

The compounds of formula (III) are known or they are prepared using methods analogous to those used to prepare known compounds, such as those described in J. March, *Advanced Organic Chemistry*, 3rd Edition (1985), Wiley Interscience.

Suitable conversions of one compound of formula (I) into another compound of formula (I) includes converting a compound of formula (I) wherein R<sub>3</sub> is H into R<sub>3</sub> is other than H, for example lower alkyl or carboxyalkyl

The conversion of one compound of formula (I) into another compound of formula (I) may be carried out using the appropriate conventional procedure; for example the above mentioned conversion (i) (of R<sub>3</sub> as H into R<sub>3</sub> as other than H) may be carried out by reacting the compound of formula (I) with a strong base, for example sodium hydride, in a solvent such

as dimethylformamide, followed by alkylation with an alkyl halide or alkyl sulphate or acylation with an acyl halide. Alternatively, the conversion of R<sub>3</sub> as H into R<sub>3</sub> as other than H may be carried out by reacting the compound of formula (I) with a finely grounded solid base, for example potassium hydroxide, in a solvent such as acetone, followed by alkylation with an alkyl halide or acylation with an acyl halide.

Amines of general formula HNR<sub>3</sub>R<sub>t</sub> may be prepared using the methods known in the art for the preparation of amines, for example as taught in *Houben-Weil, Methoden der Organischen Chemie*, Vol. XI/1 (1957) and Vol. E16d/2 (1992), Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart.

A compound of formula (I) or a solvate thereof may be isolated from the above mentioned processes according to standard chemical procedures.

The preparation of salts and/or solvates of the compounds of formula (I) may be performed using the appropriate conventional procedure.

If required mixtures of isomers of the compounds of the invention may be separated into individual stereoisomers and diastereoisomers by conventional means, for example by the use of an optically active acid as a resolving agent. Suitable optically active acids which may be used as resolving agents are described in "*Topics in Stereochemistry*", Vol. 6, Wiley Interscience, 1971, Allinger, N.L. and Eliel, W.L. Eds.

Alternatively, any enantiomer of a compound of the invention may be obtained by stereospecific synthesis using optically pure starting materials of known configuration.

The absolute configuration of compounds may be determined by conventional methods such as X-ray crystallographic techniques.

The protection of any reactive group or atom, may be carried out at any appropriate stage in the aforementioned processes. Suitable protecting groups include those used conventionally in the art for the particular group or atom being protected. Protecting groups may be prepared and removed using the appropriate conventional procedure, for example OH groups, including diols, may be protected as the silylated derivatives by treatment with an appropriate silylating agent such as di-tert-butylsilylbis(trifluoromethanesulfonate): the silyl group may then be removed using conventional procedures such as treatment with hydrogen fluoride, preferably in the form of a pyridine complex and optionally in the presence of alumina, or by treatment with acetyl chloride in methanol. Alternatively benzyloxy groups may be used to protect phenolic

groups, the benzyloxy group may be removed using catalytic hydrogenolysis using such catalysts as palladium (II) chloride or 10% palladium on carbon.

Amino groups may be protected using any conventional protecting group, for example tert-butyl esters of carbamic acid may be formed by treating the amino group with di-tert-butylidicarbonate, the amino group being regenerated by hydrolysing the ester under acidic conditions, using for example hydrogen chloride in aqueous ethanol or trifluoroacetic acid in methylene dichloride. An amino group may be protected as a benzyl derivative, prepared from the appropriate amine and a benzyl halide under basic conditions, the benzyl group being removed by catalytic hydrogenolysis, using for example a palladium on carbon catalyst.

Indole NH groups and the like may be protected using any conventional group, for example benzenesulphonyl, methylsulphonyl, tosyl, formyl, acetyl (all of them removable by treatment with alkaline reagents), benzyl (removable either with sodium in liquid ammonia or with  $\text{AlCl}_3$  in toluene), allyl (removable by treatment with rhodium (III) chloride under acidic conditions), benzyloxycarbonyl (removable either by catalytic hydrogenation or by alkaline treatment), trifluoroacetyl (removable by either alkaline or acidic treatment), t-butyltrimethylsilyl (removable by treatment with tetrabutylammonium fluoride), 2-(trimethylsilyl)ethoxymethyl (SEM) (removable by treatment with tetrabutylammonium fluoride in the presence of ethylenediamine), methoxymethyl (MOM) or methoxyethyl (MEM) groups (removed by mild acidic treatment).

Carboxyl groups may be protected as alkyl esters, for example methyl esters, which esters may be prepared and removed using conventional procedures, one convenient method for converting carbomethoxy to carboxyl is to use aqueous lithium hydroxide.

A leaving group or atom is any group or atom that will, under the reaction conditions, cleave from the starting material, thus promoting reaction at a specified site. Suitable examples of such groups unless otherwise specified are halogen atoms, mesyloxy, p-nitrobenzenesulphonyloxy and tosyloxy groups.

The salts, esters, amides and solvates of the compounds mentioned herein may as required be produced by methods conventional in the art: for example, acid addition salts may be prepared by treating a compound of formula (I) with the appropriate acid.

Esters of carboxylic acids may be prepared by conventional esterification procedures, for example alkyl esters may be prepared by treating the required carboxylic acid with the appropriate alkanol, generally under acidic conditions.

Amides may be prepared using conventional amidation procedures, for example amides of formula  $\text{CONR}_s\text{R}_t$  may be prepared by treating the relevant carboxylic acid with an amine of formula  $\text{HN R}_s\text{R}_t$  wherein  $\text{R}_s$  and  $\text{R}_t$  are as defined above. Alternatively, a  $\text{C}_{1-6}$  alkyl ester such as a methyl ester of the acid may be treated with an amine of the above defined formula  $\text{HNR}_s\text{R}_t$  to provide the required amide, optionally in presence of trimethylalluminium following the procedure described in *Tetrahedron Lett.* **48**, 4171-4173, (1977).

As mentioned above the compounds of the invention are indicated as having useful therapeutic properties:

The present invention therefore provides a method for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of diseases associated with over activity of osteoclasts in mammals which method comprises the administration of an effective non-toxic amount of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable solvate thereof.

Thus, the present invention further provides a method for the treatment of osteoporosis and related osteopenic diseases in a human or non-human mammal, which comprises administering an effective, non-toxic, amount of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable solvate thereof, to a human or non-human mammal in need thereof.

In a further aspect, the present invention provides a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable solvate thereof, for use as an active therapeutic substance.

In particular the present invention provides a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable solvate thereof, for use in the treatment of and/or prophylaxis of osteoporosis and related osteopenic diseases.

Of particular interest is the osteoporosis associated with the peri and post menopausal conditions. Also encompassed are the treatment and prophylaxis of Paget's disease, hypercalcemia associated with bone neoplasms and all the types of osteoporotic diseases as classified below according to their etiology:

**Primary osteoporosis**

Involutional

Type I or postmenopausal

Type II or senile

Juvenile

Idiopathic in young adults

**Secondary osteoporosis**

Endocrine abnormality

Hyperthyroidism

Hypogonadism

Ovarian agenesis or Turner's syndrome

Hyperadrenocorticism or Cushing's syndrome

## Hyperparathyroidism

## Bone marrow abnormalities

Multiple myeloma and related disorders  
 Systemic mastocytosis  
 Disseminated carcinoma  
 Gaucher's disease

## Connective tissue abnormalities

Osteogenesis imperfecta  
 Homocystinuria  
 Ehlers-Danlos syndrome  
 Marfan's syndrome  
 Menke's syndrome

## Miscellaneous causes

Immobilisation or weightlessness  
 Sudeck's atrophy  
 Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease  
 Chronic alcoholism  
 Chronic heparin administration  
 Chronic ingestion of anticonvulsant drugs

In addition the invention encompasses the treatment of tumours, especially those related to renal cancer, melanoma, colon cancer, lung cancer and leukemia, viral conditions (for example those involving *Semliki Forest* virus, *Vesicular Stomatitis* virus, *Newcastle Disease* virus, *Influenza A* and *B* viruses, *HIV* virus), ulcers (for example chronic gastritis and peptic ulcer induced by *Helicobacter pylori*), for use as immunosuppressant agents in autoimmune diseases and transplantation, antilipidemic agents for the treatment and/or prevention of hypercholesterolemic and atherosclerotic diseases and to be useful for the treatment of AIDS and Alzheimer's disease. These compounds are also considered useful in treating angiogenic diseases, i.e. those pathological conditions which are dependent on angiogenesis, such as rheumatoid arthritis, diabetic retinopathy, psoriasis and solid tumours.

A compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable solvate thereof, may be administered per se or, preferably, as a pharmaceutical composition also comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Accordingly, the present invention also provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable solvate thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier therefor.

Active compounds or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable solvate thereof is normally administered in unit dosage form.

An amount effective to treat the disorders hereinbefore described depends upon such factors as the efficacy of the active compounds, the particular nature of the pharmaceutically acceptable salt or pharmaceutically acceptable solvate chosen, the nature and severity of the disorders being treated and the weight of the mammal. However, a unit dose will normally contain 0.01 to 50 mg, for example 1 to 25 mg, of the compound of the invention. Unit doses will normally be administered once or more than once a day, for example 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 times a day, more usually 1 to 3 or 2 to 4 times a day such that the total daily dose is normally in the range, for a 70 kg adult of 0.01 to 250 mg, more usually 1 to 100 mg, for example 5 to 70 mg, that is in the range of approximately 0.0001 to 3.5 mg/kg/day, more usually 0.01 to 1.5 mg/kg/day, for example 0.05 to 0.7 mg/kg/day.

The present invention also provides a method for the treatment of tumours, especially those related to renal cancer, melanoma, colon cancer, lung cancer and leukemia, viral conditions (for example those involving Semliki Forest, Vesicular Stomatitis, Newcastle Disease, Influenza A and B, HIV viruses), ulcers (for example chronic gastritis and peptic ulcer induced by *Helicobacter pylori*), autoimmune diseases and transplantation, for the treatment and/or prevention of hypercholesterolemic and atherosclerotic diseases, AIDS and Alzheimer's disease, angiogenic diseases, such as rheumatoid arthritis, diabetic retinopathy, psoriasis and solid tumours, in a human or non-human mammal, which comprises administering an effective, non-toxic, amount of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable solvate thereof, to a human or non-human mammal in need thereof.

In such treatments the active compound may be administered by any suitable route, e.g. by the oral, parenteral or topical routes. For such use, the compound will normally be employed in the form of a pharmaceutical composition in association with a human or veterinary pharmaceutical carrier, diluent and/or excipient, although the exact form of the composition will naturally depend on the mode of administration.

Compositions are prepared by admixture and are suitably adapted for oral, parenteral or topical administration, and as such may be in the form of tablets, capsules, oral liquid preparations, powders, granules, lozenges, pastilles, reconstitutable powders, injectable and infusable solutions or suspensions, suppositories and transdermal devices. Orally administrable

compositions are preferred, in particular shaped oral compositions, since they are more convenient for general use.

Tablets and capsules for oral administration are usually presented in a unit dose, and contain conventional excipients such as binding agents, fillers, diluents, tableting agents, lubricants, disintegrants, colourants, flavourings, and wetting agents. The tablets may be coated according to well known methods in the art.

Suitable fillers for use include cellulose, mannitol, lactose and other similar agents. Suitable disintegrants include starch, polyvinylpyrrolidone and starch derivatives such as sodium starch glycollate. Suitable lubricants include, for example, magnesium stearate. Suitable pharmaceutically acceptable wetting agents include sodium lauryl sulphate.

These solid oral compositions may be prepared by conventional methods of blending, filling, tableting or the like. Repeated blending operations may be used to distribute the active agent throughout those compositions employing large quantities of fillers. Such operations are, of course, conventional in the art.

Oral liquid preparations may be in the form of, for example, aqueous or oily suspensions, solutions, emulsions, syrups, or elixirs, or may be presented as a dry product for reconstitution with water or other suitable vehicle before use. Such liquid preparations may contain conventional additives such as suspending agents, for example sorbitol, syrup, methyl cellulose, gelatin, hydroxyethylcellulose, carboxymethyl cellulose, aluminium stearate gel or hydrogenated edible fats, emulsifying agents, for example lecithin, sorbitan monooleate, or acacia; non-aqueous vehicles (which may include edible oils), for example, almond oil, fractionated coconut oil, oily esters such as esters of glycerine, propylene glycol, or ethyl alcohol; preservatives, for example methyl or propyl p-hydroxybenzoate or sorbic acid, and if desired conventional flavouring or colouring agents.

For parenteral administration, fluid unit dose forms are prepared containing a compound of the present invention and a sterile vehicle. The compound, depending on the vehicle and the concentration, can be either suspended or dissolved. Parenteral solutions are normally prepared by dissolving the compound in a vehicle and filter sterilising before filling into a suitable vial or ampoule and sealing. Advantageously, adjuvants such as a local anaesthetic, preservatives and buffering agents are also dissolved in the vehicle. To enhance the stability, the composition can be frozen after filling into the vial and the water removed under vacuum.



Parenteral suspensions are prepared in substantially the same manner except that the compound is suspended in the vehicle instead of being dissolved and sterilised by exposure to ethylene oxide before suspending in the sterile vehicle. Advantageously, a surfactant or wetting agent is included in the composition to facilitate uniform distribution of the active compound.

5 For topical administration, the composition may be in the form of a transdermal ointment or patch for systemic delivery of the active compound and may be prepared in a conventional manner, for example, as described in the standard textbooks such as 'Dermatological Formulations' - B.W. Barry (Drugs and the Pharmaceutical Sciences - Dekker) or Harrys Cosmeticology (Leonard Hill Books).

10 The present invention also provides the use of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable solvate thereof, for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of diseases associated with over activity of osteoclasts in mammals, such as the treatment and/or prophylaxis of osteoporosis and related osteopenic diseases.

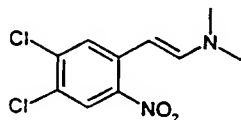
15 The present invention also provides the use of a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable solvate thereof, for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of tumours, especially those related to renal cancer, melanoma, colon cancer, lung cancer and leukemia., viral conditions (for example those involving Semliki Forest, Vesicular Stomatitis, Newcastle Disease, Influenza A and B, HIV  
20 viruses), ulcers (for example chronic gastritis and peptic ulcer induced by *Helicobacter pylori*), autoimmune diseases and transplantation, for the treatment and/or prevention of hypercholesterolemic and atherosclerotic diseases, AIDS and Alzheimer's disease, angiogenic diseases, such as rheumatoid arthritis, diabetic retinopathy, psoriasis and solid tumours,.

No unacceptable toxicological effects are expected with compounds of the invention  
25 when administered in accordance with the invention. As is common practice, the compositions will usually be accompanied by written or printed directions for use in the medical treatment concerned.

The following, descriptions, examples and pharmacological methods illustrate the invention but do not limit it in any way.

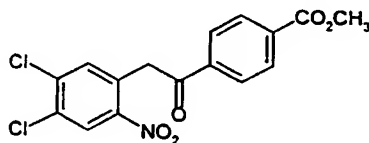
## Examples and Descriptions

### Description 1: *trans*-4,5-Dichloro-2-nitro- $\beta$ -dimethylaminostyrene

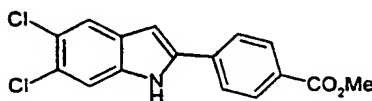


A solution of 10.3 g (50 mmol) of 4,5-dichloro-2-nitrotoluene (*Helv. Chim. Acta*  
 5 **1936**, *19*, 434-439) in a mixture of 11.9 g (100 mmol) *N,N*-dimethylformamide  
 dimethylacetal in DMF (25 ml) was heated at 100°C for 16 h. The dark reaction  
 mixture was concentrated *in vacuo*, the residue diluted with methylene chloride and  
 washed twice with water. The organic solution was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, concentrated  
*in vacuo* affording 12.6 g (48 mmol, yield 96.5%) of the title compound as dark red  
 10 crude crystals.

### Description 2: Methyl 4-[2-[(4,5-dichloro-2-nitro)phenyl]-1-oxo-ethyl] benzoate

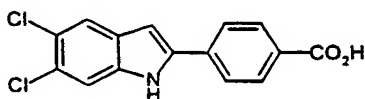


To a stirred solution of *trans*-4,5-dichloro-2-nitro- $\beta$ -dimethylaminostyrene (3.65 g,  
 14 mmol) and triethylamine (1.4 g, 14 mmol) in cyclohexane (20 ml), methyl  
 15 terephthalic chloride (2.8 g, 14 mmol) was added portionwise. The resultant mixture  
 was stirred and heated under reflux for 16 h. Sufficient water was then added to  
 dissolve the salts formed and the organic layer was separated. The aqueous phase was  
 extracted 3 times with ethyl acetate; the organic phases were pooled, washed with  
 water and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was dissolved in a mixture of dioxane  
 20 (30 ml) and water (20 ml) and the resultant solution was heated under reflux for 14 h  
 and concentrated. The residue was dissolved in methylene chloride, washed with  
 water, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude compound was  
 purified by column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>; CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>) affording 2.7 g of the title  
 compound (7.3 mmol, yield 52%).  
 25 <sup>1</sup>H NMR(CDCl<sub>3</sub>)  $\delta$  = 8.32 (s, 1H); 8.18 (d, 2H); 8.06 (d, 2H); 7.48 (s, 1H); 4.72 (s,  
 2H); 3.97 (s, 3H).

**Description 3: Methyl 4-(5,6-dichloro-1H-indol-2-yl)benzoate**

To a solution of methyl 4-[2-[(4,5-dichloro-2-nitro)phenyl]-1-oxo-ethyl] benzoate (2.7 g, 7.3 mmol) in a mixture of THF (20 ml), ethanol (20 ml) and water (15 ml), sodium hydrosulfite (2.9 g, 7.9 mmol) was added portionwise. The mixture was heated for 15 min at reflux and stirring was continued at room temperature for 15 min. More sodium hydrosulfite was added and, after 5 min, warming the mixture was stirred at room temperature for additional 15 min and evaporated *in vacuo* to remove the organic solvents. The solid which separated was filtered, washed with water and dried to afford 0.9 g of the desired compound (2.8 mmol, yield 38%).

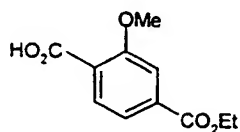
<sup>1</sup>H NMR(DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) δ = 12.05 (s, 1H); 8.03 (m, 4H); 7.84 (s, 1H); 7.61 (s, 1H); 7.09 (s, 1H); 3.88 (s, 3H)

**Description 4: 4-(5,6-Dichloro-1H-indol-2-yl) benzoic acid.**

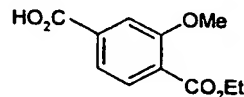
A solution of methyl 4-(5,6-dichloro-1H-indol-2-yl) benzoate (0.86 g, 2.7 mmol) and KOH (0.36 g, 6.4 mmol) in a mixture of EtOH (15 ml) and water (15 ml) was refluxed for 3 h. After concentration of the ethanol, the solution was acidified and extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic phase was washed with water, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo* to afford 0.58 g (1.8 mmol, yield 70%) of the acid used without further purification.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR(DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) δ = 12.03 (s, 1H); 8.02 (m, 4H); 7.83 (s, 1H); 7.61 (s, 1H); 7.07 (s, 1H).

**Description 5: 2-Methoxy-1,4-benzenedicarboxylic acid monoethylester and 3-Methoxy-1,4-benzenedicarboxylic acid monoethylester (respectively A and B)**



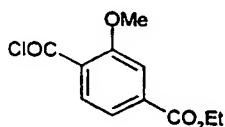
(A)



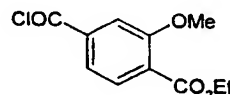
(B)

- 5 A mixture of dimethyl 2-methoxy-1,4-benzenedicarboxylate (5.8 g, 26 mmol), KOH (1.7g, 26 mmol) in EtOH (120 ml) was refluxed for 16 h. The solvent was concentrated, the residue was dissolved in water and the aqueous phase was washed twice with AcOEt. The aqueous solution was acidified with HCl and extracted three times with methylene chloride. The organic phase was dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and
- 10 concentrated. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>; CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-MeOH : 9-1) to afford a 50/50 mixture of 2-methoxy-1,4-benzenedicarboxylic acid monoethylester and 3-methoxy-1,4-benzenedicarboxylic acid monoethylester (3.5 g, 17.5 mmol, yield 67%).

- 15 **Description 6: Ethyl 2-methoxy-1,4-benzenedicarboxylic acid chloride and Ethyl 3-methoxy-1,4-benzenedicarboxylic acid chloride (respectively A and B)**



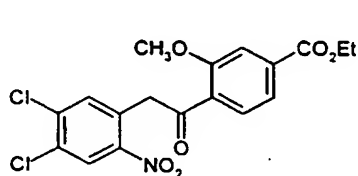
(A)



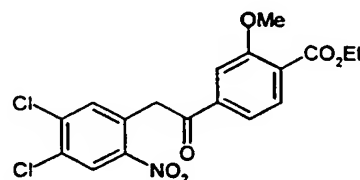
(B)

- The mixture of 2-methoxy-1,4-benzenedicarboxylic acid monoethylester and 3-methoxy-1,4-benzenedicarboxylic acid monoethyl ester (3.5 g, 17.5 mmol) was
- 20 dissolved in methylene chloride (20 ml) containing one drop of DMF. Oxalyl chloride (2.7 g, 21 mmol) was added dropwise at room temperature and stirring was continued for 2 h. The solvent and the excess of reagent were concentrated under reduced pressure; cyclohexane was added to the residue and then concentrated to
- 25 flush the last traces of reagent. The mixture was used in the next step without further purification.

**Description 7:** Ethyl 3-methoxy-4-[2-[(4,5-dichloro-2-nitro)phenyl]-1-oxo-ethyl]-benzoate and ethyl 2-methoxy-4-[2-[(4,5-dichloro-2-nitro)phenyl]-1-oxo-ethyl]-benzoate (respectively A and B).



(A)

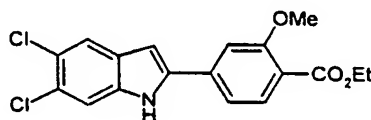


(B)

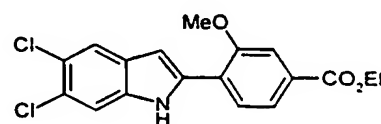
The crude mixture of acid chlorides obtained as above was added, at room temperature, to a stirred solution of *trans*-4,5-dichloro-2-nitro- $\beta$ -dimethylaminostyrene (4.3 g, 16 mmol) and triethylamine (2.3 ml, 16 mmol) in of cyclohexane (35 ml). The mixture was heated 16 h at reflux and the solvent was then concentrated. The residue was dissolved in methylene chloride, washed with water, dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$  and concentrated *in vacuo*.

The residue was dissolved in dioxane (40 ml) and water (24 ml) was added. The mixture was refluxed for 24 h. The dioxane was concentrated, methylene chloride was added and the organic phase was washed with water, dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$  and concentrated *in vacuo*. The crude compound was purified by flash chromatography ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ;  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) affording 3.6 g of the title mixture (8.7 mmol, yield 53%).

**Description 8:** Ethyl 2-methoxy-4-(5,6-dichloro-1H-indol-2-yl)-benzoate and Ethyl 3-methoxy-4-(5,6-dichloro-1H-indol-2-yl)-benzoate (respectively A and B).



A



B

The mixture of ethyl 3-methoxy-4-[2-[(4,5-dichloro-2-nitro)phenyl]-1-oxo-ethyl]-benzoate and ethyl 2-methoxy-4-[2-[(4,5-dichloro-2-nitro)phenyl]-1-oxo-ethyl]-benzoate (3.6 g, 8.7 mmol) was treated with acetic acid (50 ml) and iron powder (1.5

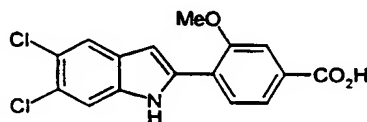
g, 26 mmol) and was refluxed for 4 h. The acetic acid was concentrated *in vacuo* and the residue was dissolved in ethyl acetate, washed twice with diluted aqueous HCl then with water. The organic phase was dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$  and concentrated *in vacuo*.

The residue was purified by flash chromatography (150 g  $\text{SiO}_2$ ;  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$ ) affording  
 5 1.3 g (3.5 mmol, yield 40%) of ethyl 2-methoxy-4-(5,6-dichloro-1H-indol-2-yl)-benzoate (A) and 1 g (2.7 mmol, yield 31%) of ethyl 3-methoxy-4-(5,6-dichloro-1H-indol-2-yl)-benzoate (B).

A  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  = 8.96 (broad s, 1H); 7.86 (d, 1H); 7.69 (s, 1H); 7.53 (s, 1H); 7.24 (d, 1H); 7.16 (s, 1H); 6.79 (d, 1H); 4.40 (q, 2H); 3.81 (s, 3H); 1.41 (t, 3H).

10 B  $^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  = 9.77 (broad s, 1H); 7.85 (d, 1H); 7.73 (m, 3H); 7.53 (s, 1H); 6.91 (d, 1H); 4.41 (q, 2H); 4.10 (s, 3H); 1.43 (t, 3H).

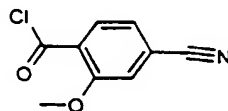
**Description 9: 3-Methoxy-4-(5,6-dichloro-1H-indol-2-yl)-benzoic acid**



15 Ethyl 3-methoxy-4-(5,6-dichloro-1H-indol-2-yl)-benzoate (1 g, 2.7 mmol) was added to a solution of KOH (0.4 g, 7 mmol) in EtOH (50 ml) and the mixture was refluxed for 4 h. The solvent was concentrated and the residue was dissolved in water. The aqueous solution was acidified with HCl then extracted with AcOEt. The organic phase was washed with water, dried over  $\text{MgSO}_4$  and concentrated *in vacuo* yielding  
 20 0.89 g (2.6 mmol, yield 99%) of the title compound.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ )  $\delta$  = 11.60 (broad s, 1H); 7.92 (d, 1H); 7.83 (s, 1H); 7.66 (m, 3H); 7.10 (s, 1H); 4.02 (s, 3H).

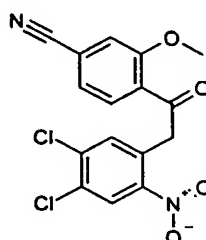
**Description 10: 2-Methoxy-4-cyanobenzoyl chloride**



25 2-Methoxy-4-cyanobenzoic acid (*Tetrahedron Letters*, 1986, 27(49), 5997-6000) (1 g, 5.6 mmol) was dissolved in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (20 ml). Oxalyl chloride (1.5 ml, 8.2 mmol)

was rapidly introduced into the solution and a drop of DMF was added. A vigorous reaction took place with the abundant evolution of gaseous products. The solution was stirred for 1 h then allowed to stand over night. Solvent was removed using a rotary evaporator to leave 1.1 g of an off white solid (5.6 mmol, yield 99%) that was used without further purification.

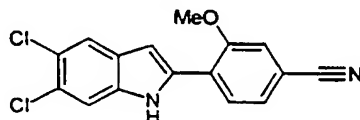
**Description 11:** 3-Methoxy-4-[2-[(4,5-dichloro-2-nitro)phenyl]-1-oxo-ethyl]-benzonitrile



2-Methoxy-4-cyanobenzoyl chloride (1.1 g, 5.6 mmol) was added portionwise to a stirred solution of *trans*-4,5-dichloro-2-nitro- $\beta$ -dimethylaminostyrene (1.47 g, 5.6 mmol) and triethylamine (1.5 ml, 10 mmol) in cyclohexane (20 ml). The solution was then refluxed for 16 h. The reaction was cooled and all the volatile products removed using a rotary evaporator. A dark residue was obtained which was then dissolved in  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$  (40 ml) and washed once with 10%  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  solution (20 ml). The organic layer was then dried with anhydrous  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ , filtered and the solvent removed using a rotary evaporator. Dark brown to black powder (2.42 g) was obtained that was dissolved in as little ethyl acetate as possible and hexane was added to this solution to precipitate light brown powder (1.72 g, mp = 167-170°C) that was used without further purification in the next step.

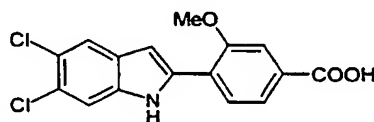
This crude intermediate (1.2 g) was dissolved in 1,4-dioxane (20 ml) and water (10 ml) was added. The solution was refluxed for 48 h, filtered while still hot and then chilled in an ice water bath. Yellow to brown crystals were collected on a buchner funnel obtaining 0.60 g (1.6 mmol, yield 30%) of the title compound, mp = 171-174 °C.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$  = 8.27 (s, 1H); 7.81 (d, 1H); 7.49 (s, 1H); 7.35 (dd, 1H); 7.28 (d, 1H); 4.61 (s, 2H); 4.00 (s, 3H).

**Description 12: 3-Methoxy-4-(5,6-dichloro-1H-indol-2-yl)-benzonitrile**

3-Methoxy-4-[2-(4,5-dichloro-2-nitro)phenyl-1-oxo-ethyl]-benzonitrile (0.4 g, 1.0 mmol) was dissolved in EtOH (10 ml) and AcOH (10 ml). The solution was brought to gently reflux and iron powder (0.5 g, 9 mmol) was added in small portions over the period of an hour. The solution was refluxed for 12 h after which the solvents were removed using a rotary evaporator. The residue was extracted several times with THF. After removal of the solvent, crude 3-methoxy-4-(5,6-dichloro-1H-indol-2-yl)-benzonitrile (0.35 g, 1.0 mmol, yield 100%) was obtained that was used in the next step without further purification. mp = 241-244 °C.

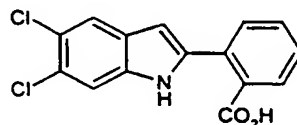
<sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ = 11.60 (s br, 1H); 7.98 (d, 1H); 7.85 (s, 1H); 7.67 (s, 1H); 7.65 (d, 1H); 7.55 (dd, 1H); 7.14 (s, 1H); 4.00 (s, 3H).

**Description 13: 3-Methoxy-4-(5,6-dichloro-1H-indol-2-yl)-benzoic acid**

3-Methoxy-4-(5,6-dichloro-1H-indol-2-yl)-benzonitrile (0.35 g, 1.0 mmol) was suspended in 30 % NaOH (20 ml) and 95% EtOH (20 ml). The mixture was refluxed for 12 h and then allowed to cool to room temperature. The suspension was concentrated to about half volume using a rotary evaporator and then filtered on a buchner funnel obtaining a tan to yellow coloured powder. This was stirred for 2 hour in 10% HCl. The solution was then filter to yield 0.256 g (0.76 mmol, yield 69%) of the crude title compound that was purified by chromatography to yield 150 mg of pure title compound, mp > 270 °C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>) δ = 11.60 (broad s, 1H); 7.92 (d, 1H); 7.83 (s, 1H); 7.66 (m, 3H); 7.10 (s, 1H); 4.02 (s, 3H).



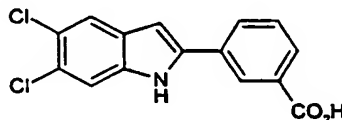
**Description 14: 2-(5,6-Dichloro-1H-indol-2-yl)benzoic acid**

Starting from *trans*-4,5-dichloro-2-nitro- $\beta$ -dimethylaminostyrene and 2-

- 5 (methoxycarbonyl)benzoyl chloride and following successively the procedures of Descriptions 2, 3 and 4 afforded the title compound as a light brown solid which was used without further purification in the next step.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  = 11.71 (s, 1H); 7.82 (s, 1H); 7.76 (d, 1H); 7.65-7.52 (m, 4H); 6.54 (s, 1H) ppm.

10

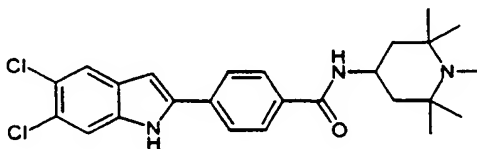
**Description 15: 3-(5,6-Dichloro-1H-indol-2-yl)benzoic acid**

Starting from *trans*-4,5-dichloro-2-nitro- $\beta$ -dimethylaminostyrene and 3-

- (methoxycarbonyl)benzoyl chloride and following successively the procedures of  
15 Descriptions 2, 3 and 4 afforded the title compound as a beige solid which was used without further purification in the next step.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  = 12.06 (s, 1H); 8.43 (s, 1H); 8.12 (d, 1H), 7.93 (d, 1H); 7.82 (s, 1H); 7.66-7.58 (m, 2H); 7.02 (s, 1H) ppm.

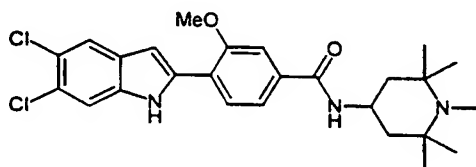
- 20 **Example 1: 4-(5,6-Dichloro-1H-indol-2-yl)-N-(1,2,2,6,6-pentamethylpiperidin-4-yl)benzamide.**



A mixture of 4-(5,6-dichloro-1H-indol-2-yl) benzoic acid (0.25 g, 0.82 mmol), WSC (0.156 g, 0.82 mmol), HOAT (0.11 g, 0.82 mmol), 4-amino-1,2,2,6,6-pentamethylpiperidine (0.209 g, 1.2 mmol), DIEA (0.212 g, 1.2 mmol) in DMF (3 ml) was stirred at room temperature for 16 h. The mixture was then poured on water, made basic by NaOH N and extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic solution was washed with water, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, concentrated *in vacuo*, and the residue was purified by column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/CH<sub>3</sub>OH/NH<sub>4</sub>OH ; 9/1/0.1), affording 0.35 g (0.76 mmol, yield 93%) of the title compound as white crystals, mp = 325°C

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) δ = 11.98 (s, 1H); 8.26 (d, 1H); 7.95 (m, 4H); 7.82 (s, 1H); 7.6 (s, 1H); 7.05 (s, 1H); 4.19 (m, 1H); 2.19 (s, 3H); 1.71 (m, 2H); 1.48 (m, 2H); 1.10 (s, 6H); 1.05 (s, 6H).

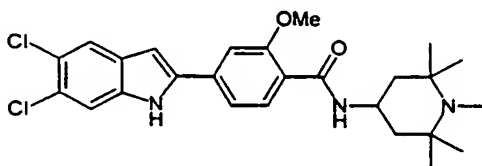
**Example 2: 4-(5,6-Dichloro-1H-indol-2-yl)-3-methoxy-N-(1,2,2,6,6-pentamethylpiperidin-4-yl)-benzamide.**



A mixture of 3-methoxy-4-(5,6-dichloro-1H-indol-2-yl)-benzoic acid (0.15 g, 0.45 mmol), WSC (0.094 g, 0.5 mmol), HOAT (0.067 g, 0.5 mmol), 4-amino-1,2,2,6,6-pentamethylpiperidine (0.15 g, 0.9 mmol) in DMF (2 ml) was stirred at 50°C for 18h. The mixture was then poured in a large volume of water and extracted with AcOEt. The organic phase was washed with water, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub> and concentrated *in vacuo*. The residue was purified by flash chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>; CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-MeOH-NH<sub>4</sub>OH : 91.5-7.5-1) then crystallised in di-isopropyl ether to afford 0.13 g (0.26 mmol, yield 59%) of the title compound, mp = 260°C.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) δ = 11.58 (s, 1H); 8.26 (d, 1H); 7.88 (d, 1H); 7.82 (s, 1H); 7.67 (s, 1H); 7.57 (m, 2H); 7.07 (s, 1H); 4.22 (m, 1H); 4.02 (s, 3H); 2.20 (s, 3H); 1.73 (m, 2H); 1.46 (m, 2H); 1.11 (s, 6H); 1.06 (s, 6H).

**Example 3: 4-(5,6-Dichloro-1H-indol-2-yl)-2-methoxy-N-(1,2,2,6,6-pentamethylpiperidin-4-yl)-benzamide.**

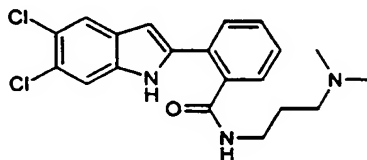


5 This compound was obtained by the same procedure starting from the corresponding 2-methoxy-4-(5,6-dichloro-1H-indol-2-yl)-benzoic acid.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  = 11.98 (s, 1H); 7.91 (d, 1H); 7.82 (s, 1H); 7.77 (d, 1H); 7.56 (m, 3H); 7.08 (s, 1H); 4.19 (m, 1H); 4.00 (s, 3H); 2.19 (s, 3H); 1.75 (m, 2H); 1.38 (m, 2H); 1.10 (s, 6H); 1.05 (s, 6H).

10

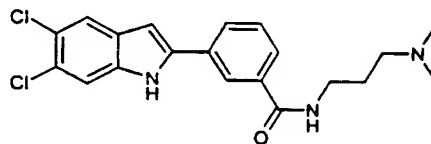
**Example 4 : 2-(5,6-Dichloro-1H-indol-2-yl)-N-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)benzamide.**



A mixture of crude 2-(5,6-dichloro-1H-indol-2-yl)benzoic acid (0.19 g, 0.62 mmol),  
 15 WSC (0.13 g, 0.68 mmol), HOAT (0.093 g, 0.68 mmol), dimethylamino propylamine (0.13 g, 1.3 mmol) in DMF (2 ml) was heated at 50°C for 16 h. The mixture was then poured on water and extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic phase was washed twice with water, dried over MgSO<sub>4</sub>, concentrated *in vacuo* and the residue was purified by column chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/CH<sub>3</sub>OH/NH<sub>4</sub>OH; 9/1/0.1) to  
 20 afford the title compound as an oil, which crystallised by trituration in diisopropyl ether obtaining, after filtration, 0.072 g (0.18 mmol, yield 30%) of the title compound as white crystals, mp = 169°C.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>)  $\delta$  = 11.63 (s, 1H); 8.32 (t, 1H); 7.79 (s, 1H); 7.69 (d, 1H); 7.61 (s, 1H); 7.59-7.35 (m, 3H); 6.62 (s, 1H); 3.18 (m, 2H); 2.08 (t, 2H); 2.00 (s, 6H); 1.49  
 25 (m, 2H).

**Example 5: 3-(5,6-Dichloro-1H-indol-2-yl)-N-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)benzamide.**

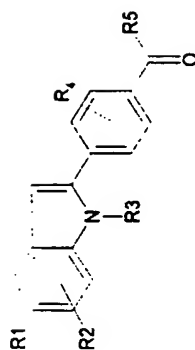


- 5 The title compound was obtained as a white solid (mp = 204°C) starting from 3-(5,6-dichloro-1H-indol-2-yl)benzoic acid and following the procedure described above.

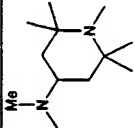
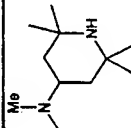
<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (DMSO-d<sub>6</sub>) δ = 12.00 (s, 1H); 8.63 (t, 1H); 8.31 (s, 1H); 7.99 (d, 1H); 7.83 (s, 1H); 7.78 (d, 1H); 7.60 (s, 1H); 7.57 (t, 1H); 7.00 (s, 1H); 3.28 (t, 2H); 2.27 (t, 2H); 2.14 (s, 6H); 1.68 (m, 2H).

10

The following compounds were prepared according to the procedure of Example 1



Ex. No	Name	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	MP °C	N.M.R.
6	4-(5,6-Dichloro-1H-indol-2-yl)-3-methoxy-N-(3-diethylaminopropyl)-benzamide.	-Cl	-Cl	-H	2-OMe		128-135	<sup>1</sup> H-NMR (DMSO-d <sub>6</sub> ) δ = 11.30 (s br, 1H); 8.30 (t br, 1H); 7.84 (d, 1H); 7.77 (s, 1H); 7.67 (s, 1H); 7.58 (d, 1H); 7.53 (dd, 1H); 7.02 (s, 1H); 4.02 (s, 3H); 3.35 (dt, 1H); 2.52 (q, 4H); 2.51 (t, 2H); 1.72 (dt, 2H); 0.99 (t, 6H).
7	4-(5,6-Dichloro-1H-indol-2-yl)-3-methoxy-N-[3-(4-chlorophenyl)piperazinyl]propyl]-benzamide.	-Cl	-Cl	-H	2-OMe		146-148	<sup>1</sup> H-NMR (DMSO-d <sub>6</sub> ) δ = 11.43 (s br, 1H); 8.57 (t br, 1H); 7.88 (d, 1H); 7.81 (s, 1H); 7.66 (s, 1H); 7.61 (s, 1H); 7.56 (d, 1H); 7.20 (t, 1H); 7.06 (s, 1H); 6.94 (s, 1H); 6.90 (d, 1H); 6.78 (d, 1H); 4.02 (s, 3H); 3.42-3.15 (m, 6H); 2.60-2.40 (m, 6H); 1.77 (m, 2H).
8	4-(5,6-Dichloro-1H-indol-2-yl)-3-methoxy-N-[3-(4-(3-hydroxyphenyl)piperazinyl]propyl]-benzamide.	-Cl	-Cl	-H	2-OMe		180-182	<sup>1</sup> H-NMR (DMSO-d <sub>6</sub> ) δ = 11.50 (s, 1H); 9.02 (s, 1H); 8.55 (t br, 1H); 7.88 (d, 1H); 7.80 (s, 1H); 7.65 (s, 1H); 7.60 (s, 1H); 7.58 (d, 1H); 7.05 (s, 1H); 6.96 (dd, 1H); 6.37 (d, 1H); 6.30 (s, 1H); 6.70 (d, 1H); 4.00 (s, 3H); 3.39-3.31 (m, 2H); 3.10 (m, 4H); 2.50 (m, 4H); 2.40 (t, 2H); 1.75 (m, 2H).
9	4-(5,6-Dichloro-1-methyl-1H-indol-2-yl)-3-methoxy-N-(1,2,2,6,6-pentamethylpiperidin-4-yl)-benzamide	-Cl	-Cl	-Me	2-OMe		136-141	<sup>1</sup> H-NMR (DMSO-d <sub>6</sub> at 353 K) δ = 7.92 (d br, 1H); 7.79 (s, 1H); 7.74 (s, 1H); 7.60 (d, 1H); 7.58 (dd, 1H); 7.40 (d, 1H); 6.49 (s, 1H); 4.30-4.22 (m, 1H); 3.89 (s, 3H); 3.54 (s, 3H); 2.25 (s, 3H); 1.80 (dd, 2H); 1.50 (dd, 2H); 1.13 (s, 6H); 1.10 (s, 6H).

10	4-(5,6-Dichloro-1-methyl-1H-indol-2-yl)-3-methoxy-N-(1,2,2,6,6-pentamethylpiperidin-4-yl)-N-methylbenzamide	-Cl	-Cl	-Me	2-OMe		195-200	<sup>1</sup> H-NMR (DMSO-d <sub>6</sub> ) δ = 7.78 (s, 1H); 7.72(d, 1H); 7.40 (d, 1H); 7.14 (d, 1H); 7.03 (dd, 1H); 6.48 (s, 1H); 4.25-4.10 (m, 1H); 3.81 (s, 3H); 3.55 (s, 3H); 2.90 (s, 3H); 2.19 (s, 3H); 1.70 (dd, 2H); 1.59 (dd, 2H); 1.10 (s, 6H); 0.88 (s br, 6H).
11	4-(5,6-Dichloro-1H-indol-2-yl)-3-methoxy-N-(2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidin-4-yl)-N-methylbenzamide	-Cl	-Cl	-H	2-OMe		223-226	<sup>1</sup> H-NMR (DMSO-d <sub>6</sub> at 333 K) δ = 11.35 (s br, 1H); 7.85 (d, 1H); 7.76 (s, 1H); 7.65 (s, 1H); 7.13 (d, 1H); 7.03 (dd, 1H); 6.98 (s, 1H); 3.98 (s, 3H); 2.84 (s, 3H); 1.54 (dd, 2H); 1.41 (dd, 2H); 1.06 (s br, 13H).

## Biological Assays

**Background.** It is known that, upon attachment to bone, an electrogenic  $H^+$  - adenosine triphosphatase (ATPase) is polarised to the osteoclast-bone interface. The pump  
5 transports massive quantities of protons into the resorption microenvironment to effect mobilisation of the bone mineral and to create the acidic pH required by collagenases to degrade the bone matrix.

The vacuolar nature of the osteoclast proton pump was originally recognised by Blair [H. C. Blair et al., *Science*, **245**, 855 (1989)] and then confirmed by Bekker [P.J. Bekker et al., *J. Bone Min. Res.*, **5**, 569 (1990)] and Väänänen [H.K. Väänänen et al., *J. Cell. Biol.*, **111**, 1305 (1990)]. Evidence was based upon preparations of ruffled  
10 membrane fragments from avian osteoclasts (obtained from the medullar bone of calcium-starved egg-laying hens). The resulting membrane vesicles acidify in response to ATP, which is easily assessed by measuring the fluorescence quench of acridine  
15 orange, a weak base which accumulates into acidic compartments.

The biochemical pattern indicated that the osteoclast proton pump belonged to the vacuolar-like ATPases since proton transport was inhibited by N-ethylmaleimide (NEM), a sulphydryl reagent, and by bafilomycin  $A_1$ , a selective inhibitor of vacuolar  $H^+$  -ATPases [J.E. Bowman et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, **85**, 7972 (1988)], whilst  
20 it was not inhibited by ouabain, an inhibitor of  $Na^+/K^+$ -ATPases; sodium orthovanadate, an inhibitor of P-ATPases, or by omeprazole or SCH 28080, both of which are inhibitors of gastric  $H^+/K^+$ -ATPase [J.P. Mattsson et al., *Acta Physiol. Scand.*, **146**, 253 (1992)].

It is known that specific inhibitors of vacuolar ATPases, such as bafilomycin  $A_1$ , are able to inhibit bone resorption in osteoclast cultures [K. Sundquist et al., *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun.* **168**, 309-313 (1990)]  
25

## INHIBITION OF PROTON TRANSPORT AND v-ATPase ACTIVITY IN MEMBRANE VESICLES

### Preparation of crude bone microsomes from calcium-starved egg-laying hens.

Vesicles were prepared from medullar bone obtained from tibiae and femurs of egg-laying hens which were calcium-starved for at least 15 days. Briefly, bone fragments  
30 were scraped with a 24 scalpel blade, suspended in 40 ml of isolation medium (0.2 M

sucrose, 50 mM KCl, 10 mM Hepes, 1 mM EGTA, 2 mM dithiothreitol, pH 7.4) and filtered through a 100  $\mu$ m pore size nylon mesh. The whole procedure was performed at 4°C. After homogenisation in a potter (20 strokes) in 40 ml of isolation medium an initial centrifugation (6,500  $\times$   $g_{max}$   $\times$  20 min) was performed to remove mitochondria and lysosomes. The supernatant was centrifuged at 100,000  $\times$   $g_{max}$  for 1 hr and the pellet was collected in 1 ml of isolation medium, divided into 200  $\mu$ l aliquots, immediately frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at -80°C. The protein content was determined using a Biorad colourimetric kit according to Bradford [M. Bradford, *Anal. Biochem.*, 72, 248 (1976)]. For the proton transport assay, 5-10  $\mu$ l of membranes were used.

**Purification of osteoclast membranes.** 1 ml of crude microsomal vesicles prepared above were applied (about 0.2 ml per tube ) on the top of a sucrose step-gradient consisting of 3.5 ml of 15%, 30% and 45 % (w/w) sucrose in isolation medium and centrifuged at 280,000  $g_{max}$  for 2 h (SW 41 Ti rotor). After centrifugation the 30-45% sucrose interfaces were collected, diluted approx. 20-fold in isolation medium and pelleted at 100,000  $g_{max}$  for 1 hour (SW 28 rotor). The pellet was then resuspended in 1 ml of isolation medium, aliquoted and frozen in liquid N<sub>2</sub> and stored at -80°C until used.

**Human kidney membranes** were obtained from the cortex of a human kidney, frozen immediately after surgery, according to the method reported in the literature for bovine kidney (S. Gluck, *J. Biol. Chem.*, 265, 21957 (1990)).

**Preparation of human osteoclast microsomal vesicles.** Osteoclast-like giant cells isolated from osteoclastoma tumor were homogenized with a glass-teflon homogenizer (1000 rpm  $\times$  20 strokes), and the material was centrifuged at 6000  $\times$   $g_{max}$  for 20 minutes. The resulting pellet was then spun at 100000  $\times$   $g_{max}$  for 60 minutes to pellet the microsomal fraction. Resuspended in 1 ml of isolation medium pH 7.4, frozen by liquid nitrogen immersion and stored at -80°C until used.

**Proton transport in membrane vesicles** was assessed, semi-quantitatively, by measuring the initial slope of fluorescence quench of acridine orange (excitation 490 nm; emission 530 nm) after addition of 5-20  $\mu$ l of membrane vesicles in 1 ml of buffer containing 0.2 M sucrose, 50 mM KCl, 10 mM Hepes pH 7.4, 1 mM



ATP.Na<sub>2</sub>, 1 mM CDTA, 5  $\mu$ M valinomycin and 4  $\mu$ M acridine orange. The reaction was started by addition of 5 mM MgSO<sub>4</sub>. Results were expressed as the percent of the mean of two controls.

**Inhibition of bafilomycin-sensitive ATPase activity** was assessed in purified  
5 membrane vesicles by measuring the release of inorganic phosphate (Pi) during 30 min  
of incubation at 37°C in a 96-well plate either in the presence or in the absence of  
bafilomycin A1. The reaction medium contained 1 mM ATP, 10 mM HEPES-Tris pH 8,  
50 mM KCl, 5  $\mu$ M valinomycin, 5  $\mu$ M nigericin, 1 mM CDTA-Tris, 100  $\mu$ M ammonium  
molybdate, 0.2 M sucrose and membranes (20  $\mu$ g protein/ml). The reaction was initiated  
10 by MgSO<sub>4</sub> (8-arm pipette) and stopped, after 30 min, by addition of 4 volumes of the  
malachite green reagent (96-arm pipette) prepared according to Chan [*Anal. Biochem.*  
157, 375 (1986)]. Absorbance at 650 nm was measured after 2 min using a microplate  
reader. Results are expressed as nmol (Pi)  $\times$  mg protein<sup>-1</sup> $\times$ min<sup>-1</sup> and, for each  
experiment, represent the mean $\pm$ sem of triplicates.

**PHARMACOLOGICAL DATA:**

Compounds described in the present invention are able to inhibit bafilomycin-sensitive ATPase of chicken osteoclast in a range from 50 nM to 2  $\mu$ M and of human osteoclast in a range from 30 nM to 5  $\mu$ M. An example of these results is shown below:

5

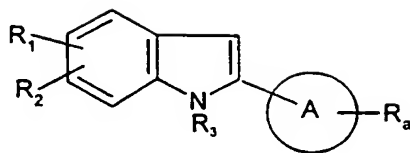
Ex. No	IC <sub>50</sub> ( $\mu$ M) ATPase assay
1	0.35
2	0.096
3	1.3

**Inhibition of bafilomycin-sensitive ATPase in human osteoclast and human kidney membranes**

Ex No	IC <sub>50</sub> h osteoclast	IC <sub>50</sub> h kidney
1	0.25	1.25
2	0.126	0.2

## CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I):



(I)

or a salt thereof, or a solvate thereof, wherein:

A represents an optionally substituted aryl group or an optionally substituted heterocyclyl group;

$R_a$  represents  $-CO-NR_S R_t$  wherein  $R_S$  and  $R_t$  each independently represent hydrogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted arylalkyl, optionally substituted heterocyclyl or an optionally substituted heterocyclylalkyl group, or  $R_S$  and  $R_t$  together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a heterocyclyl group;.

$R_1$  and  $R_2$  each independently represents hydrogen, hydroxy, amino, alkoxy, optionally substituted aryloxy, optionally substituted benzyloxy, alkylamino, dialkylamino, halo, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, nitro, alkyl, carboxy, carbalkoxy, carbamoyl, alkylcarbamoyl, or  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  together represent methylenedioxy, carbonyldioxy or carbonyldiamino; and

$R_3$  represents hydrogen, alkanoyl, alkyl, aminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, carboxyalkyl, carbalkoxyalkyl, carbamoyl or alkylsulphonyl and arylsulphonyl.

2. A compound according to claim 1, wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  each independently represents a halogen, for example chloro.

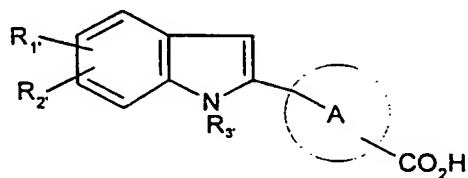
3. A compound according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein  $R_1$  is 5-chloro, and  $R_2$  is 6-chloro.

4. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein  $R_3$  represents hydrogen.

5. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein  $R_S$  and  $R_t$  each independently represent  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl groups.
6. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein  $R_S$  represents optionally substituted heterocyclyl or aryl.
7. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein  $R_S$  represents an optionally substituted piperidinyl group.
8. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein  $R_S$  represents 1,2,2,6,6-pentamethylpiperidin-4-yl group or 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidin-4-yl.
9. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein  $R_S$  represents an optionally substituted heterocyclalkyl group.
10. A compound according to claim 9, wherein  $R_S$  represents an optionally substituted piperazinyl- $C_{1-6}$ alkyl group.
11. A compound according to claim 9 or 10, wherein the optional substituents for the heterocyclyl group are selected from: hydroxyphenyl or chlorophenyl groups.
12. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein  $R_t$  represents hydrogen.
13. A compound according to claim 1, selected from:  
4-(5,6-dichloro-1H-indol-2-yl)-N-(1,2,2,6,6-pentamethylpiperidin-4-yl)benzamide;  
4-(5,6-dichloro-1H-indol-2-yl)-3-methoxy-N-(1,2,2,6,6-pentamethylpiperidin-4-yl)-benzamide;  
4-(5,6-dichloro-1H-indol-2-yl)-2-methoxy-N-(1,2,2,6,6-pentamethylpiperidin-4-yl)-benzamide;  
2-(5,6-dichloro-1H-indol-2-yl)-N-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)benzamide;

- 3-(5,6-dichloro-1H-indol-2-yl)-N-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)benzamide;  
 4-(5,6-dichloro-1H-indol-2-yl)-3-methoxy-N-(3-diethylaminopropyl)-benzamide;  
 4-(5,6-dichloro-1H-indol-2-yl)-3-methoxy-N-[3-[4-(3-chlorophenyl)piperazinyl]propyl]-benzamide;  
 5 4-(5,6-dichloro-1H-indol-2-yl)-3-methoxy-N-[3-[4-(3-hydroxyphenyl)piperazinyl]propyl]-benzamide;  
 4-(5,6-dichloro-1-methyl-1H-indol-2-yl)-3-methoxy-N-(1,2,2,6,6-pentamethylpiperidin-4-yl)-benzamide;  
 4-(5,6-dichloro-1-methyl-1H-indol-2-yl)-3-methoxy-N-(1,2,2,6,6-pentamethylpiperidin-4-yl)-N-methylbenzamide; and  
 10 4-(5,6-dichloro-1H-indol-2-yl)-3-methoxy-N-(2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidin-4-yl)-N-methylbenzamide; or a salt thereof, or a solvate thereof,

14. A process for preparing a compound of formula (I) or a salt thereof or a  
 15 solvate thereof, which process comprises amidating a compound of formula (II):

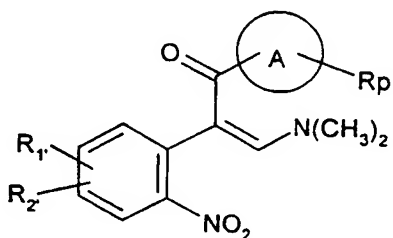


(II)

- wherein A is as defined in relation to formula (I),  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  each respectively  
 20 represent  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  as defined in relation to formula (I) or a protected form thereof; and thereafter, as necessary, carrying out one or more of the following reactions:

- (i) converting one compound of formula (I) into another compound of formula (I);
- 25 (ii) removing any protecting group;
- (iii) preparing a salt or a solvate of the compound so formed.

15. A process for preparing a compound of formula (IV) which process comprises heating a compound of formula (VII):



(VII)

5 wherein A, R<sub>1</sub>' and R<sub>2</sub>' are as defined in relation to formula (II) and R<sub>p</sub> is as defined in relation to formula (IV).

16. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I) according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a  
10 pharmaceutically acceptable solvate thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier therefor.

17. A method for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of diseases associated with over activity of osteoclasts in mammals, which method comprises the administration  
15 of an effective non-toxic amount of a compound of formula (I) according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable solvate thereof.

18. A method for the treatment of osteoporosis and related osteopenic diseases in a human or non-human mammal, which comprises administering an effective, non-toxic, amount of a compound of formula (I) according to claim 1 or a  
20 pharmaceutically acceptable solvate thereof, to a human or non-human mammal in need thereof.

19. A compound of formula (I) according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable solvate thereof, for use as an active therapeutic substance.

20. A compound of formula (I) according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and/or a pharmaceutically acceptable solvate thereof, for use  
30

in the treatment of and/or prophylaxis of osteoporosis and related osteopenic diseases.

21. A method for the treatment of tumours, viral conditions, ulcers, autoimmune diseases and transplantation, the treatment and/or prevention of hypercholesterolemic and atherosclerotic diseases, AIDS and Alzheimer's disease, angiogenic diseases, in a human or non-human mammal, which comprises administering an effective, non-toxic, amount of a compound of formula (I) according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable solvate thereof, to a human or non-human mammal in need thereof.
22. The use of a compound of formula (I) according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable solvate thereof, for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of diseases associated with over activity of osteoclasts in mammals, such as the treatment and/or prophylaxis of osteoporosis and related osteopenic diseases.
23. The use of a compound of formula (I) according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable solvate thereof, for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of tumours, viral conditions, ulcers, autoimmune diseases and transplantation, the treatment and/or prevention of hypercholesterolemic and atherosclerotic diseases, AIDS and Alzheimer's disease, angiogenic diseases.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

tional Application No

PCT/EP 98/08561

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

IPC 6 C07D401/12 A61K31/40 C07D209/18

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 C07D A61K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS, vol. 127, no. 13, 29 September 1997 Columbus, Ohio, US; abstract no. 171080w, MOODY, CHRISTOPHER J. ET AL.: "Synthesis and cytotoxic activity of indolyl thiazoles." XP002104813 * RN 194155-97-0 * see abstract -& DATABASE CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS CA 127:171080, XP002104816 compound with RN 191155-97-0 & ANTI-CANCER DRUGS, vol. 8, no. 5, - 1997 pages 589-499, --- -/--	1,16,23

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

3 June 1999

Date of mailing of the international search report

17/06/1999

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040. Tx. 31 651 epo nl.  
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Van Bijlen, H



# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int. Application No

PCT/EP 98/08561

## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS, vol. 124, no. 25, 17 June 1996 Columbus, Ohio, US; abstract no. 343278y, HASEGAWA, YUKIO ET AL.: "Preparation of isoxazole derivatives as ulcer inhibitors." XP002104814 * RN 176593-94-5 * see abstract -& DATABASE CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS CA 124:343278, XP002104817 compound with RN 176593-94-5 & JP 00 827130 A (TEIKOKU HORMONE MFG CO LTD)	1,16,23
X	TAKAO SAKAMOTO ET AL.: "Preparation and palladium-catalysed arylation of indolylzinc halides" JOURNAL OF THE CHEMICAL SOCIETY, PERKIN TRANSACTIONS 1., - 1996 pages 1927-1934, XP002104812 LETCWORTH GB * page 1928, 1931, 1932: compounds 5h, 5i and 5j *	1
X	CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS, vol. 88, no. 7, 13 February 1978 Columbus, Ohio, US; abstract no. 46557g, STEPIEN, ELZBIETA ET AL.: "Effect of specific substrate-bound inhibitors on restriction of the circular Col E1 DNA by Eco RI endonuclease. " XP002104815 * RN 65426-87-1 * see abstract -& DATABASE CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS CA 88:46557, XP002104818 compound with RN 65426-87-1 & STUD. BIOPHYS., vol. 67, - 1978 pages 135-136,	1
A	WO 96 21644 A (SMITHKLINE BEECHAM S.P.A.) 18 July 1996 see claims	1,16,20, 22,23
E	WO 98 57952 A (SEPRACOR INC.) 23 December 1998 * page 86: example 311 *	1,16

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

..international application No.

PCT/EP 98/08561

## Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos.: 17, 18 and 21  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:  
Remark: Although claims 17, 18 and 21  
are directed to a method of treatment of the human/animal  
body, the search has been carried out and based on the alleged  
effects of the compound/composition.
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such  
an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

## Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all  
searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment  
of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report  
covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is  
restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/EP 98/08561

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			IT MI951687 A	03-02-1997
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